

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

The invention relates to an ITO heater for a liquid crystal display, typically a DSTN display which comprises an active liquid crystal cell for optical modulation, characterised by a dummy cell adapted for optical compensation comprising two substrates with liquid crystal therebetween, by a heater, the heater comprising a transparent conductive layer applied to one of the substrates, and by the dummy cell further comprising electrically conductive spacing means for simultaneously maintaining a desired cell gap and equalizing the electrical potential between the two substrates.

[Fig. 5]